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CLAIMS

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1. A message alert system for a communication device wherein the communication device comprises a display and a processor, the message alert system comprising:
- 5 a computer-readable medium; and
- a routine stored in the computer-readable medium and configured for execution by the processor, the routine comprising:
- 10 a first routine that receives a message having a message type; and
- a second routine that generates a display item for the display of the communication device in accordance with the message type such that the display item comprises information indicative of the message type of the received message and whether further messages of the message type have been received by the communication device.
- 15 2. The message alert system of claim 1, wherein the display item provides for execution of a task in light of the received message.
- 20 3. The message alert system of claim 2, wherein the task comprises one of reading a text message, playing an answering machine message, contacting a voice mail system and closing the display item.
- 25 4. The message alert system of claim 1, wherein the second routine determines whether the further messages of the message type have been reviewed by a user.
5. The message alert system of claim 4, wherein the information of the

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display item includes an indication of a total number of unreviewed messages of the message type.

6. The message alert system of claim 1, wherein:

5 the communication device resides in one of a plurality of operating modes; and

the routine further comprises a third routine that provides the generated display item to the display of the communication device conditioned upon a current operating mode of the plurality of operating modes.

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7. The message alert system of claim 6, wherein:

the plurality of operating modes comprises a message viewing mode; and

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the third routine provides the generated display item to the display of the communication device once the communication device leaves the message viewing mode.

8. The message alert system of claim 1, wherein the routine further comprises an alert routine that generates one of a plurality of alerts in connection with receipt of the message.

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9. The message alert system of claim 8, wherein the routine further comprises an alert customization routine that provides for selecting one of the plurality of alerts for each message type, respectively.

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10. The message alert system of claim 1 in combination with the communication device, wherein:

the communication device comprises a memory having a memory capacity;

5 the routine further comprises a memory check routine that determines whether the received message results in memory utilization that exceeds a predetermined amount of the memory capacity; and

the information of the display item comprises a notification that the predetermined amount of the memory capacity has been exceeded.

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11. The message alert system of claim 10, wherein:

the memory check routine further determines whether the received message can be stored in the memory;

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the display item provides for accessing stored messages in the memory when the received message cannot be stored in the memory.

12. The message alert system of claim 1, wherein the information of the display item comprises one of a reproduction of a portion of the received message and a reproduction of the received message.

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13. The message alert system of claim 1, wherein the routine further comprises a reminder routine that generates a reminder display item for the received message in accordance with the message type.

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14. The message alert system of claim 13, wherein:

the routine further comprises an initialization routine; and

the reminder routine is executed only for message types selected by a user during the initialization routine.

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15. The message alert system of claim 1, wherein the display comprises a window in which the information is displayed.

5 16. A method for providing message alerts in a communication device having a display, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a message having a message type; and

10 generating a display item such that the display item comprises information in accordance with the message type of the received message such that the information is indicative of the message type of the received message and whether further messages of the message type have been received by the communication device.

15 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of displaying the generated display item on the display such that the information of the display item directs a user to initiate a task in light of the received message.

20 18. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of determining whether the further messages of the message type have been reviewed by a user.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the information of the display item includes an indication of a total number of unreviewed messages of the message type.

25 20. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of displaying the generated display item conditioned upon an operating mode of the communication device.

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21. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of producing an alert in connection with receipt of the message.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of selecting a
5 respective alert of a plurality of message alerts for each message type.

23. The method of claim 16, wherein the communication device comprises a memory having a memory capacity such that the method further comprises the steps of:

10 determining whether the received message results in memory utilization that exceeds a predetermined amount of the memory capacity; and
generating further information for the display item comprising a notification that the predetermined amount of the memory capacity has been exceeded.

15 24. The method of claim 16, wherein the information of the display item comprises a portion of the received message.

20 25. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of generating a reminder display item for the received message in accordance with the message type.

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26. A communication device for receiving a message, comprising:

a display;

a processor;

a memory having a memory capacity; and

a routine configured for execution by the processor, the routine comprising:

a first routine that receives data in connection with the message;

a second routine that determines from the data whether storing the message in the memory would result in exceeding a predetermined amount of the memory capacity; and

a third routine that generates a display item for the display wherein the display item comprises a notification regarding the memory when storing the message in the memory would result in exceeding the predetermined amount of the memory capacity.

27. The communication device of claim 26, wherein:

the message has a message type; and

the display item further comprises information indicative of the message type of the message.

28. The communication device of claim 26, wherein information of the display item is further indicative of one of whether further messages of the message type have been received by the communication device and a size of the message.

29. The communication device of claim 26, wherein the data is indicative of the message.

30. The communication device of claim 26, wherein:

the second routine further determines whether the memory is at the memory capacity;

the display item comprises a memory full notification when the memory is at the memory capacity and provides for accessing items stored in the memory.

31. The communication device of claim 26, wherein:

the message is transmitted via a network to the communication device;

and

the routine comprises a fourth routine that, subsequent to the second routine determining that the memory is not at the memory capacity, transmits a command signal to the network to initiate transmission of the message.

32. A method of controlling a communication device having a display, a processor, and a memory having a memory capacity wherein the communication device is capable of receiving a message, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving data in connection with the message;

analyzing the data to determine whether storing the message would result in exceeding a predetermined amount of the memory capacity; and

generating a display item for the display wherein the display item comprises a notification regarding the memory when storing the message in the memory would result in exceeding the predetermined amount of the memory capacity.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the data is indicative of the message.

34. The method of claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

5 determining whether the memory is at the memory capacity such that the display item comprises a memory full notification when the memory is at the memory capacity; and

providing via the display item access to items stored in the memory when the memory is at the memory capacity.

10 35. A message alert system for a communication device wherein the communication device comprises a processor and a display for displaying information, comprising:

a computer-readable medium; and

15 a routine stored in the computer-readable medium and configured for execution by the processor, the routine comprising:

a first routine that receives a message comprising the information;

20 a second routine that analyzes the message to determine a size thereof;

a third routine that generates a display item for the message in accordance with the size thereof.

25 36. The message alert system of claim 35, wherein the second routine further analyzes the message to determine whether the message is of a message type for which the third routine is executed.

37. The message alert system of claim 35, wherein the routine further

comprises an initialization routine that specifies the message type for which the third routine is executed.

38. The message alert system of claim 35, wherein the generated display item comprises a reproduction of the message when the second routine determines that the size of the message is less than a predetermined size.

39. The message alert system of claim 35, wherein:
the generated display item comprises a reproduction of the message when the second routine determines that the size of the message is greater than a predetermined size; and
the routine comprises a fourth routine that provides the generated display item to the display for a predetermined time.

40. The message alert system of claim 39, wherein:
the routine comprises a fifth routine that generates a further display item that comprises a portion of the message when the second routine determines that the size of the message is greater than a predetermined size;
and
the routine comprises a sixth routine that provides the further display item to the display after the predetermined time has elapsed.

41. The software system of claim 35, wherein:
the message is transmitted to the communication device via a network;
and
the network is a broadcast network.

42. A method of controlling a communication device having a display for displaying information, the method comprising the steps of:
receiving a message comprising the information;
analyzing the message to determine a size thereof; and
5 generating a display item for the message in accordance with the size thereof.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein the analyzing step comprises further analyzing the message to determine whether the message is of a message type for which the generating step is executed.

44. The method of claim 43, further comprising the step of specifying the message type for which the third routine is executed.

45. The method of claim 42, wherein the generated display item comprises a reproduction of the message when the analyzing step determines that the size of the message is less than a predetermined size.

46. The method of claim 42, wherein:
the generated display item comprises a reproduction of the message when the size of the message is greater than a predetermined size; and
the method further comprises the step of providing the generated display item to the display for a predetermined time.

47. The method of claim 46, further comprising the steps of:
generating a further display item that comprises a portion of the message when the size of the message is greater than a predetermined size;
and

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providing the further display item to the display after the predetermined time has elapsed.

48. The software system of claim 42, wherein the message is
5 transmitted to the communication device via a broadcast network.

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